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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/567,555 | 02/08/2006 | Masaaki Tozawa | 053500 | 6640 |

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| WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP | | |
| 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW | | |
| SUITE 700 | | |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | | |

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| EXAMINER | |
| THOMAS, JAISON P | |

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 1751 | |

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/567,555

Applicant(s)

TOZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Jaison P. Thomas

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 8 and 10-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 10-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 3-5,8,10-25 are pending. Claims 14-25 are new. Claims 8 and 12 are amended.
2. The rejections of Claims 2-7 and 10-12 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Masahiro (JP 2003-040856) are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.
3. The rejections of Claims 2-7 and 9-12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Monden et al. (US Patent 6344966) are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.
4. The rejections of Claims 2-7,9,11 and 12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shacklette et al. (US Patent 5422423) are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

Election/Restrictions

5. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I, claim(s) 14-25, drawn to method for preparing a conductive polymer.

Group II, claim(s) 3-5,8 and 10-13, drawn to a conductive polymer.

6. The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The special technical feature of the Group I invention is a conductive polymer comprising a matrix of conductive polymer and specific dopant compounds. The special technical feature of the Group II invention is a method for preparing a conductive polymer using oxidative polymerization and a generic dopant. Thus the special technical features of the three groupings are not the same nor are they corresponding i.e. the special technical feature of

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specific dopant compounds in Group I is not found in Group II. Alternatively, the special technical feature of Group II i.e. preparing a conductive polymer using oxidative polymerization and the generic dopant disclosed would not be patentable over the prior art and thus lacks unity of invention with Group I.

7. Newly submitted claims 14-25 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons discussed above.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 14-25 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are directed to sulfonate compounds which can contain benzene, naphthalene, tetralin and anthracene ring backbone whereas Claim 12 is only limited to compounds that contain a benzene backbone.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

11. Claims 3-5 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kazuji et al. (JP 2003-022938).

Kazuji teaches an electrolyte capacitor which uses a conductive polymer and a organic acid "onium" salt which is comprised of an organic acid anion and a "onium" cation which can be a quaternary ammonium, tertiary sulfonium, quaternary phosphonium or tertiary oxonium ion. The organic acid can include phenol compounds. (Abstract). Monomers used in the conductive polymer include ethylene dioxythiophene (para. 0009, pg. 2) and can be polymerized using oxidation polymerization (pg. 1, para. 0005). Some examples of the organic acid include phenol sulfonic acids (pg. 9, para. 0046) and benzaldehyde-o-sulfonic acid (pgs. 9-10, para. 0046).

With respect to the limitations of Claim 10, the Examiner respectfully submits that the limitation is inherently disclosed by the prior art. Specifically, the prior art teaches identical materials being used in an identical manner and therefore would inherently possess that dopants that are capable of acting as a dopant and an oxidant.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claim 8 is allowed for the reasons stated in the previous Office Action.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaison P. Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 272-8917. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.


15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on (571) 272-1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jaison Thomas
Examiner
8/21/2007

JT


DOUGLAS MCGINTY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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